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## Has trained policemen as safecrackers, says CIA

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WASHINGTON — The CIA has trained policemen from a number of big-city police departments to crack safes, conduct burglaries and re-plaster walls damaged during surreptitious entries and bugging operations, according to agency documents.

The documents, released by the CIA after a six-month review of a Freedom of Information Act request, also show that nearly every police department in the metropolitan area — many more than previously acknowledged — received CIA training and assistance during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Several memos indicate that the CIA and the local police wanted their unusual relationships to remain secret, despite inquiries from reporters and members of Congress.

Besides the revelation of the extent of CIA activity in local police departments, the chief significance of the assorted documents is that they provide many details about CIA-police relationships described without much elaboration in the Rockefeller Commission report on CIA activities released last June.

CIA officials sanitized the 189 documents before releasing them. Nearly every document contained some deletions, and some pages were missing entire paragraphs or pages. Another 46 documents requested were not released for security reasons.

The Rockefeller report had disclosed that police in District of Columbia, Fairfax, and Montgomery, in addition to Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, New York, and Boston, received training from CIA agents, as did Virginia and Maryland state police.

The Rockefeller report discussed some training given to police officers here and elsewhere, but did not specifically describe the training in safe-cracking, burglary and wall plastering. These and other techniques apparently were included under the category "clandestine collection methodology" in the report.

A Feb. 8, 1973 document from a CIA security office official to a deputy director of the agency discussed the 1968 and 1969 training given to Washington, D.C., police. It said, "It should be noted that the initial request for the above training originated with senior officials of the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department and was basically predicated on the need to combat the tangible threats posed by radical

terrorist groups within its jurisdiction."

For reasons not given in the documents, the Montgomery County police department actually had a hotline between its headquarters and CIA headquarters in Langley, Va.

In 1968, 1969 and 1970 the CIA gave 44 police officers from Washington, Arlington and Fairfax demonstrations of explosives that were "ostensibly conducted by the Northern Virginia Police Academy and non-attributable to the Agency," the documents say.

The documents show that CIA director Richard Helms and his successor, William Colby, clearly knew about and approved of the agency activities with local police officials.

Helms, in testimony before a Senate Committee in 1973, cited the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 as authority for CIA assistance to local police. That act later was amended to exclude any CIA training of local police.

The documents included testimonial letters praising the CIA from several area police chiefs, notably from former Washington, D.C. Police Chief Jerry Wilson, who has repeatedly denied that he had any direct knowledge of CIA involvement with his department.